

Message Text

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SUBJECT: DECLARATION OF VIETNAM VETERANS GROUP ON
OCCASION OF US VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. TRANSMITTED BELOW IS THE ENGLISH TEXT OF A DECLARATION
ISSUED BY THE VIETNAM VETERANS LEGION, THE MAJOR VETERANS
ORGANIZATION IN SVN, ON THE OCCASION OF VIETNAM VETERANS DAY
IN THE US, MARCH 29.

IT IS A STRONG STATEMENT OF THE SPIRIT THAT BINDS AMERICAN
AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE FIGHTING MEN TOGETHER, RVN SENATOR PHAM
DO THANH, PRESIDENT OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS LEGION, IS NOW
IN THE US TO ATTEND MARCH 29 COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES IN
WASHINGTON.

BEGIN TEXT

FOR ALMOST TWO DECADES, SOUTH VIETNAM HAS BECOME THE PRIME
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TARGET OF THE MULTIFARIOUS AGGRESSIVENESS AND SUBBVERSION OF

THE COMMUNISTS, EITHER CONCEALED SUCH AS LYNCHING OF INNOCENT PEOPLE OR CONSPICUOUS AS THE MASS MASSACRE IN HUE IN 1968, FREQUENT INDISCRIMINATE SHELLINGS, HEAVY ATTACKS IN THE REGIONS OF QUANG-TRI, ANLOC.

BELEAGUERED BY SUCH GROSS AND RELENTLESS VIOLENCE, THE PEOPLE OF SVN UNANIMOUSLY STAND BEHIND THE ARMED FORCES IN A DRIVE TO STAMP OUT SUCH PREPOSTEROUS ACTS OF WAR. THE VIETNAMESE VETERANS LEGION, COGNIZANT OF ITS ROLE AS VANGUARD IN THE DEFENSE OF WORLD PEACE, A ROLE SPELLED OUT BY THE VERY CONSTITUTION OF THE WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION, HAS UNCEASINGLY COMMITTED ITSELF TO ACTIVITIES MAINLY DIRECTED AT SERVING THE COMMON CAUSE OF THE NATION: SAFEGUARDING THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF SVN AND A LONG LASTING PEACE FOR THE PEOPLE.

AS THE VIETNAMESE VETERANS LEGION ADHERES ITSELF TO THOSE TWO MAIN GOALS, IT CANNOT HELP PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE 2.5 MILLION US SERVICEMEN WHO HAD, ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, GIVEN THEIR ENERGY, COURAGE AND SOME OF THEM EVEN THEIR PRECIOUS LIVES IN THIS FAR AWAY CORNER OF THE WORLD WITH A SOLE AND UNIQUE VIEW TO HELP A WAR STRICKEN COUNTRY AND PEOPLE TO CONSERVE THEIR FREEDOM.

SUCH AN ACT OF GALLANTRY, IN KEEPING WITH THE NOBLE TRADITION OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, REMAINS INDELIBLE IN THE MIND OF THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM. NOWHERE CAN WE SEE THE SPIRIT OF UNSELFISHNESS MORE SALIENT THAN IN THE VIETNAM BATTLEFIELD, A POSITIVE SPIRIT THAT SHOULD BE ADOPTED BY THE WHOLE WORLD IF PEACE IS WHAT WE ARE AFTER. WHILE THINKING OF THESE VALOROUS MEN, THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE BEAR ALSO IN MIND THE UNFLINCHING POLICY OF THE USG WHICH HAS MADE THE DEFENSE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM POSSIBLE. SUCH A POLICY, AS THE WHOLE WORLD MUST HAVE KNOWN, HAS HELPED DEFER COMMUNISTS' SUBVERSION EFFORTS NOT ONLY IN SVN BUT ALSO IN CAMBODIA, MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE AS WELL AS INDONESIA AND THAILAND.

IN THESE COUNTRIES, THE VIOLENCE STILL SMOULDERS, AS THE COMMUNIST WORLD ALWAYS HARBORS ITS POLICY OF EXPANSIONISM, BUT HERE WE FIND AN UNDENIABLE FACT THAT THE DETERMINATION OF THE GOVT AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS DENIED THE COMMUNIST VICTORY. HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE DARING OF THE 2.5 MILLION MEN FIGHTING FOR THE NOBLE CAUSE OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY IN VIETNAM, HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE STEADFAST POLICY OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION, THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND UNCLASSIFIED

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THE POLITICAL FOUNDATION OF SVN AS WELL AS OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN SE ASIA COULD HAVE BEEN DANGEROUSLY JEOPARDIZED BY COMMUNIST AGGRESSIVENESS, AND FREEDOM MIGHT JUST HAVE BECOME A WORD UTTERLY VOID OF MEANING.

THE PARIS AGREEMENT, PRODUCT OF THE TREMENDOUS ACUMEN, EFFORT AND PATIENCE ON THE PART OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS ACHIEVED ITS DUAL PURPOSES: THE ENDING OF THE VIETNAM WAR AND THE REPATRIATION OF ALL US FORCES FROM THIS SE ASIAN

BATTLEFIELD, ACCOMPLISHED IN AN HONORABLE MANNER.

THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE NOW HAVE A RIGHT TO CHOOSE FOR THE FUTURE AND THE US SERVICEMEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIVE THEIR LIVES, AS OF YORE, IN THEIR OWN CHERISHED HOMELAND.

THE LAST AMERICAN COMBAT SOLDIER LEFT VIETNAM ON MARCH 29, 1973 AND PRESIDENT NIXON HAS DEIGNATED THIS DAY AS "VIETNAM VETERANS DAY". WHILE WE SINCERELY REGRET HAVING TO PART WITH THESE MEN OF COURAGE WHO HAD FOUGHT A STRANGE WAR IN A STRANGE LAND JUST FOR THE GREAT CAUSE OF PEACE AND FREEDOM, WE HEARTILY SHARE THE HAPPINESS THAT THEY DESERVE, A HAPPINESS MIXED WITH GRORY EARNED THROUGH PAST UNSELFISH ACHIEVEMENTS. TO THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES IN THIS BATTLEFIELD, THOSE WHO WERE MISSING IN ACTION OR WOUNDED DURING THESE SAVAGE HOSTILITIES, WE HAVE THIS TO SAY: "GLORY WILL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU AND THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE THINK OF YOU WITH A FEELING OF INDEBTEDNESS."

AS THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS DAY DRAWS NEAR, WE, THE VIETNAMESE VETERANS, TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY OF THIS OCCASION TO EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE TO THEIR US FELLOW COMBATANTS, WHETHER ALIVE OR ALREADY NAMED IN THE MILITARY ANNALS, TO THE BEREAVED FAMILIES WHOSE BELOVED SONS, BROTHERS AND FATHERS HAD PASSED AWAY IN GLORY. THERE IS NO WORD RICH ENOUGH IN MEANING TO CONVEY FAITHFULLY OUR REGRETS FOR THE PHYSICAL LOSS OF THOSE HEROES WHO HAD DIED A HEROIC DEATH FOR OTHERS TO LIVE IN FREEDOM.

THE PROCESS OF ACHIEVING A TRUE PEACE IS A LONG ONE, A PROCESS WHICH REQUIRES UNREMITTING EFFORTS AND YEARS OF STRUGGLE. THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE IN GENERAL AND THE VIETNAMESE VETERANS IN PARTICULAR WILL MARCH FORWARD TO MEET THE CHALLENGE, AND WITH THE CONTINUOUS SUPPORT OF THEIR FELLOW US COMBATANTS AND VETERANS, WE ARE CERTAIN THAT THE DAY WHEN PEOPLE OF SVN CAN REALIZE A PEACEFUL EXISTENCE -- FREE FROM FEAR OF

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BEING TORMENTED, ABUSED, AND TERRORIZED BY THE COMMUNISTS -- IS WITHIN REACH.

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